



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Shakespeare Improv at Mill Race Historical Village June Fourth**

**Northville, MI:** The Northville Historical Society and Northville District Library (NDL) are bringing a night of laughter, improv, and Shakespeare to the community with *Shakespeare Improv* on Thursday, June 4 at 7 PM.

The performance will take place inside the New School Church at Mill Race Historical Village, 215 Griswold St., Northville. Registration is required through NDL's website here: <https://nvillelib.org/NorthvilleShakespeare626>

Created by Shakespeare Royal Oak, *Shakespeare Improv* blends the language and creativity of Shakespeare with the fast-paced fun of improv comedy, making classic works feel fresh, accessible, and entertaining for modern audiences.

The evening stars Detroit performers and Second City alumni Antoine McKay, Bella Javier, and Julia Ruggirello. McKay's acting career spans nearly four decades, with credits including *Empire*, *Chicago Med*, and productions at Detroit Repertory Theatre and Tipping Point Theatre. Javier is a Metro Detroit actress and writer whose work highlights Filipino-American voices in film and theater. Ruggirello is a recent Kent State University graduate whose stage work includes *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Waitress*.

Guests will experience Shakespeare through audience interaction, comedy, improvisation, and wordplay in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

To learn more about [Shakespeare Royal Oak](https://shakespeareroyaloak.com), visit their website: <https://shakespeareroyaloak.com>. Tickets for their summer production of *As You Like It* go on sale in June.

#### **Actor's Complete Biographies:**

Antoine McKay's 37 year acting career began at Second City in Detroit and Chicago. His camera credits include commercials, tv (*Empire*, *Patriot*, *South Side*, *Chicago Med*), and movies (*The Weatherman*, *All the Happy Families*). McKay has returned to the stage the last few years at the Detroit Repertory Theatre (*Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Annabella in July*, *Alamo Shoes*, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*), and *Brokeology* at Tipping Point Theatre. He also directed *Primary Trust* at the Detroit Repertory Theatre this season. His awards include Best Supporting Actor by the Detroit Free Press, Spirit of Detroit Award, and 2024 Wilde award for Best Actor.



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Bella Javier is re-entering the theater space after 7 years of working in the Detroit film scene and is beyond thrilled to be a part of SRO's Shakespeare Improv Series. She is an actress and writer based out of Metro Detroit whose work primarily focuses on amplifying the midwestern Filipino-American voice in media and on stage. Most notably, she stars as the lead actress in the independent feature film *Mabuhay* which made its premiere at CAAMFest in San Francisco this spring. Her other work includes *David & Christine*, *Halfway to Halloween*, and most recently the upcoming short film *Friendsgiving* — produced by the Emmy Award-winning team at Reel Clever Films with the support of Panavision. You can also catch Bella this summer at the park as she assumes the role of Celia in SRO's production of "As You Like It"!

Julia Ruggirello is a 23 year old performer who is so excited to be a part of *Shakespeare Improv* with Shakespeare Royal Oak! Julia's improv experience includes *Out of Bounds* and *Mixed Nuts* with Florida Studio Theater Improv Troupe in Sarasota. She is so excited to improvise with a fun new twist-Shakespearean language! Julia is a 2024 graduate of Kent State University's BFA Musical Theater Program. Her Shakespeare credits include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (Kent State Trumbull) and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Indiana University). Most recently, Julia performed as Gabriella, the fiery Italian flight attendant, in the farce *Boeing Boeing* at The Riverbank Theatre. Other credits include Conductor Bailey on *The Polar Express Train Ride* (100+ performances) with Rail Events Productions and Warner Bros, Junie B. Jones in *Junie B. Jones The Musical* at Florida Studio Theater, and U/S Ensemble #3/Francine Pomatter (with performances) in *Waitress* at Florida Studio Theater. Outside of performing Julia enjoys reading, listening to her vinyl Broadway collection, and spending time with her dog Pedro.

The Northville Historical Society works to preserve and share Northville's history through education and the operation of Mill Race Historical Village, a living museum established in 1972 on land donated by the Ford Motor Company. To learn more about Northville Historical Society and Mill Race Historical Village, please visit: [www.millracenorthville.org](http://www.millracenorthville.org).

The Northville District Library serves the communities of the City of Northville and Northville Township through collections, programs, events, and resources that encourage lifelong learning, creativity, and connection. Learn about library card requirements, and more, at: [www.northvillelibrary.org](http://www.northvillelibrary.org).

Contact us, by email at: [nortref@northvillelibrary.org](mailto:nortref@northvillelibrary.org), or call us at: 248-349-3020. We are also available on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Bluesky, and YouTube.



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Shakespeare Royal Oak logo



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# SHAKESPEARE IMPROV!

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 p.m.  
New School Church  
Mill Race Historical Village

*Registration is required  
with Northville District Library*

**Shakespeare Improv!** was created to enhance the fun in understanding Shakespeare's work, making it relatable through the excitement of improv comedy. Shakespeare's plays and language, are feasts of creativity, spontaneity, and wordplay. Led by Detroit's award-winning Second City alumni Antoine McKay, we invite you to register at **Northville District Library** to enjoy the improvisational vein of Shakespeare's enduring work!



Antoine McKay



Isabella Javier



Julia Ruggirello



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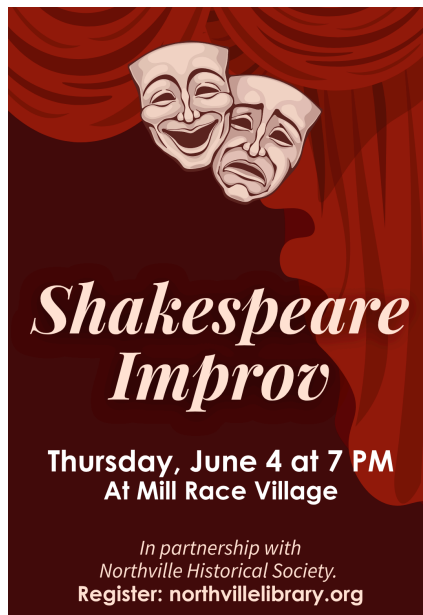
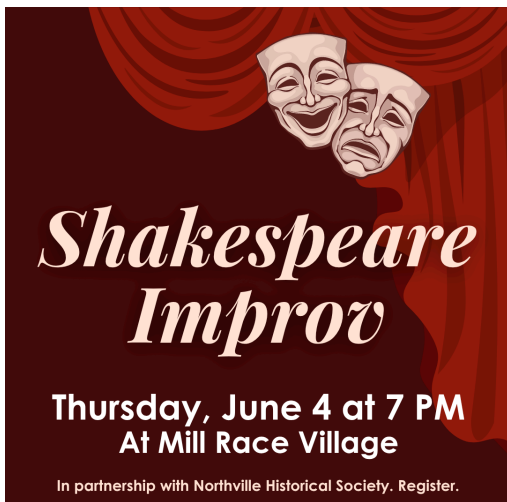




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NDL promotional graphics for social media posts and stories.